

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office
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Billings, Montana 59101-4669
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In Reply To:
9011/9015(923)P

February 14, 2006

EMAIL TRANSMISSION – 02/16/06
Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2006-049
Expires: 9/30/07

To: State Management Team

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Submission of Comments for Instruction Memorandum 2006-084 **DD: February 23, 2006**

Program Areas: Rangeland Improvements, Vegetation Treatments, Abandoned Mined Lands, Fire and Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Emergency Stabilization and Restoration, Conservation and Restoration Treatments, Threatened and Endangered Species, Wildlife Habitat and Noxious Weeds/Invasive Species.

Purpose: Response to Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2006-084.

Background: The purpose of the National Vegetation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to update and consolidate four vegetation treatment EIS analysis documents dating between 1986 and 1991. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Environmental Report (DER) was released to the public on November 10, 2005.

Policy/Action: As described in IM 2006-084, please send your comments to John Simons in the Montana State Office by February 23, 2006.

Timeframe: This IM is effective upon receipt.

Budget Impact: The effect of this IM on the budget is minimal.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: Preparation of this IM was coordinated with Montana State Office staff.

Contact: If you have questions regarding this IM, please contact Bill McIlvain, Acting Chief of the Branch of Planning and Biological Resources, or John Simons, Vegetation and Restoration Specialist.

Signed by: Randy D. Heuscher, Acting

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

1 Attachment

1-Instruction Memorandum No. 2006-084 (7 pp)

Distribution

Asst. FM Havre – 1

Asst. FM Glasgow – 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420
www.blm.gov

February 2, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
1793 (220) P

EMS TRANSMISSION 02/07/2006
Instruction Memorandum No. 2006-084
Expires: 09/30/2007

To: All SDs (except ESO) and Center Directors

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

Subject: Instructions for Internal BLM Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement
(DEIS) and Environmental Report (DER) DD: 02/10/2006

Program Area: Rangeland Improvements, Vegetation Treatments, Abandoned Mined Lands, Fire and Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Emergency Stabilization and Restoration, Conservation and Restoration Treatments, Threatened and Endangered Species, Wildlife Habitat and Noxious Weeds/Invasive Species.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) contains instructions for internal review by BLM Field/State offices for the National Vegetation Treatments Draft Programmatic EIS (DEIS) and Environmental Report (DER). Initial review of the DEIS and DER was the responsibility of Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members. Initial review included the core team and team leads in development and technical review of the DEIS prepared by the contractor (ENSR International).

Future IDT meetings and content analysis may be scheduled in the winter/spring of 2006 and will include assisting in comment analysis and response development. The IDT travel expenses will be covered by the project; however, salary is to be provided by the home office as agreed at the February 2001 Executive Leadership Team meeting when this project was discussed and approved. Attachment 1 is the listing of current IDT members and points of contact (POC) within the States. If identified IDT members or State POCs have left their position, it is the responsibility of the State to identify a replacement. The IDT members should arrange their schedules and plan to attend any IDT meetings to work on the Final EIS (FEIS). Meeting dates will be set following the receipt and compilation of comments. Specific time commitments of the IDT members vary by area of expertise and level of involvement. Some individuals have had less than a ½ work-month annual workload, up to about two work-months annually for those extensively involved.

Background: The purpose of the National Vegetation EIS is to update and consolidate four vegetation treatment EIS analysis documents dating between 1986 and 1991. The DEIS and DER was released to the public on November 10, 2005.

The BLM published two documents: DEIS and a DER. The DEIS focuses on the use of herbicides to manage vegetation and contains several decision areas: (1) Approving the use of new herbicide formulations on public lands, (2) deciding which currently-approved herbicides should be used on public lands, (3) deciding on a protocol to follow to add new EPA-registered chemical formulations to the BLM list of approved herbicides; and (4) identifying which best management practices should be used with all applications of herbicides and other types of vegetation treatment methods (mechanical, fire, biological control, etc). The DER focuses on the use of other treatment methods (mechanical, manual, and biological control methods and use of prescribed fire) to manage vegetation. Both documents will provide valuable impact analysis that can be incorporated by reference in site-specific analyses conducted at the land use and activity planning levels, alleviating some of the associated workload.

The BLM held 10 hearings in nine western States and Washington, D.C., beginning November 28, 2005, and ending December 13, 2005. The BLM has briefed many external groups and coordinated with the Alaska Fire Service (AFS).

The BLM has initiated formal Section 7 Consultation with the FWS and NOAA Fisheries. The BLM has also prepared reports as part of consultation with Native Americans and cultural resources.

Policy/Action: Internal review of the DEIS and DER by BLM state and field office staff is requested by February 10, 2006. Comments should include factual corrections, identifying errors or where inaccurate or contradictory information exists in the DEIS or DER. Also include clarification of information and if possible, provide sources of information for the IDT to review and to assist the contractor in preparing the Final EIS and ER. The intent of internal review is not to rewrite or research new information, but to improve the quality of the document for the Final EIS and ER. Comments should be consolidated by each state point of contact and sent to Brian Amme, NV-930 Project Manager.

The individuals listed on Attachment 1 are identified as IDT members and will remain IDT members for the duration of this project. This is a priority BLM project and the selected individuals and their supervisors should make this a priority task for FY 2006. State Directors and Field Managers are asked to support their staff's participation on the IDT and so reflect this assignment in Employee Performance Appraisal Plan.

Timeframe: This IM is effective upon receipt.

Budget Impact: The effect of this IM on the budget is minimal.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: Preparation of this IM was coordinated with WO 210, WO 220, WO 230, and the Office of Fire and Aviation.

Contact: If you have any questions regarding this IM, please contact the EIS co-team leads, Brian Amme (NS0), Project Manager at 775-861-6645, or Gina Ramos, Co-Team Lead (WO 220) at 202-452-5084.

Signed by:

Edward W. Shepard

Assistant Director

Renewable Resources and Planning

Authenticated by:

Robert M. Williams

Policy and Records Group, WO-560

3 Attachments

1 – IDT Team List (1 p)

2 – Interdisciplinary Support Team (2 pp)

3 – Points of Contact for EIS Field Review (1 p)

IDT TEAM LIST

MANAGEMENT TEAM

<i>Name, Title</i>	<i>Agency/Office</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Ed Shepard, Assistant Director	WO 200	Policy
ELT, All State Directors	BLM States	Policy
Bud Cribley, Rangeland Resources Division Chief (202) 785-6569	WO 220	Range, Soil, Water, Air

CORE TEAM

<i>Name, Title</i>	<i>Agency/Office</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Gina Ramos, Senior Weeds Specialist (202) 452-5084	WO 220	Co-Team Lead
Brian Amme, Environmental Protection Specialist (775) 861-6645	NV 930	Co-Team Lead
Gina Ramos, Senior Weeds Specialist (202) 452-5084	WO 220	Noxious Weeds, Invasive species
Carl Gossard, Assistant Director for Wildland Fire Operations (503) 808-6461	OR 934	Air Quality, Smoke Mgt.
Elroy Masters, Planning and Environmental Analyst (202) 452-5111	WO 210	NEPA
Carol Spurrier, Botanist (202) 452-7736	WO 230	T&E/S Plants
Donald Foote (303) 236-3534	NBC	Contract Administrator
Sharon Wilson (202) 452-5128	WO-610	Public Affairs

INTERDISCIPLINARY & SUPPORT TEAMS

<i>Name, Title</i>	<i>Agency/Office</i>	<i>Resource(s)</i>
Peter Teensma (202) 452-5053 Roy Johnson (208) 387-5163 (alternate)	WO-100 FA-630	Hazardous Fuels
Scott Archer (303) 236-6400	ST-130	Air Quality
Carl Gossard (208) 387-5419 Paul Schlobohm (208) 387-5196	OR SO FA-630	Smoke Management
Bill Carey (303) 236-0103	ST-130	Water Quality/Chemistry
Lee Koss (907) 271-4411	AK-930	Surface Water
Paul Summers (303) 236-0151	ST-130	Ground Water
Sherm Karl (202) 452-7747	WO-220	Terrestrial Vegetation
Erin McConnell (541) 947—6133 Ruth Gronquist (907) 434-2377	OR-015 AK-024	Noxious Weeds, Invasive Species
Rosemary Mazaika (503) 808-6076	ORSO	Wetlands and Riparian
Scott Feldhausen 208/756-5478	ID-085	Fisheries Habitat
Bill Grossi (602) 417-9241 Bruce Durtsche (alternate) (303) 236-6310	AZ-932 ST-130	Wildlife Habitat
Bill Grossi (602) 417-9241	AZSO	T/E Animals
Roger Rosentreter (208) 373-3824	IDSO	T/E Plants
Bill Murphy (503) 952-6064	OSO	Hazardous Materials
Rick Tholen (208) 373-4049	WO-230 @IDSO	Forestry and Woodland Resources
Doug Powell (303) 986-3309	WO-220 @SRM	Livestock Grazing
Fran Ackley (719) 269-8511	CO-932	Wild Horses and Burros
Bill Ypsilantis (303) 236-3404	ST-130	Soils
Kate Winthrop (202) 785-6576	WO 240	Cultural and Historic Resources (TCPs, TLAs)
Jerry Cordova (202) 452-7756 Kate Winthrop (202) 785-6576	WO-240	Native American Issues
Rob Hellie (202) 452-7703	WO-170	Wilderness
Rob Hellie (202) 452-7703	WO-170	Special Areas (NLCS)

<i>Name, Title</i>	<i>Agency/Office</i>	<i>Resource(s)</i>
Rob Hellie (202) 452-7703	WO-170	Wild & Scenic Rivers
Brad Cownover (202) 785-6574	WO-250	Visual Resource Mgmt.
Scott Abdon (202) 785-6515	WO-250	Recreation
John Styduhar (503) 952-6454	OSO	Rights of Way
Joan Trent (406) 896-5034	MTSO	Social Environment
Richard Lee (303) 236-1734	WO-220	Pesticide Use
Karl Ford (303) 236-6622	ST-133	Toxicology
E Lynn Burkett	WO-220	Data Coordinator
Wendy Bullock (303) 236-3261	ST-130	Spatial Data Analyst

Points of Contact for EIS Field Review:

<i>Name, Title</i>	<i>Agency/Office</i>	<i>e-mail/phone</i>
Elroy Masters (202) 452-5111	WO 210	Point of Contact
Gina Ramos (202) 452-5084	WO 220	Point of Contact
Carol Spurrier (202) 452-7736	WO 230	Point of Contact
John Douglas (202) 452-0327	WO 240	Point of Contact
Ted Milesnick (208) 387- 5198	OFA	Point of Contact
Dave Schafersman (303) 236-1143 Dan Muller (alternate) (303) 236-7198	NSTC	Point of Contact
Donald Foote (303) 236-3534	NBC	Point of Contact
Mary Lynch (907) 356-5863	AK-313	Point of Contact
Bill Grossi (602) 417-9241	AZ-932	Point of Contact
Dianna Brink (916) 978-4645	CA-930	Point of Contact
Chuck Romanillo (303) 239-3776	CO-930	Point of Contact
Sharon Paris (208) 373-4028	ID-SO	Point of Contact
Theresa Hanley (406) 896-5068	MT-DAK SO	Point of Contact
Bernie Chavez (505) 438-7668	NM-OK SO	Point of Contact
Duane Wilson (775) 861-6587	NVSO	Point of Contact
Larry Larsen (503) 952-6080	OR-WA SO	Point of Contact
Larry Lichthardt (801) 539-4168	UT-SO	Point of Contact
Ken Henke (307) 775-6041	WY-SO	Point of Contact